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Title: The Speaker made reference to the passing away of Shri Nanaji Deshmukh, a member of the 6th Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Nanaji Deshmukh.

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing the Balrampur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh also served as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1999 to 2005. An agriculturist by profession, Shri Deshmukh was a well known social worker. He worked for the realization of the dream of total transformation through total development with people's initiative and participation in the villages of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Deshmukh founded the Saraswati Shishu Mandir, a chain of pre-primary and primary schools spread across India. He was also the founder of the Deen Dayal Research Institute and the Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya in Madhya Pradesh. He also served as the first Chancellor of this Vishwavidyalaya which had the distinction of being India's first rural university.

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh was the recipient of the Padma Vibhushan in 1999, National Citizen Award in 2001 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar in 2003. He was also bestowed with the Doctor of Letters by several universities for rendering social service.

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh passed away on 27 February, 2010 at Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 94.

We deeply mourn the loss of our friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.01 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)